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- At the meeting of the Socialist International in Paris from 11 to 13 April 1953, the consensus of opinion seems to have been that the death of Stalin and the Russian policy change following it did not in itself constitute a lessening of East-West tension. It was generally agreed that some progress had been made in the psychological field, but that so far the Russian overtures contained nothing which would justify hopes for a permanent decrease of the tension. The Socialists tended to the opinion that such steps as the exchange of prisoners of war, etc., were simply tactical maneuvers to hamper the American attempts to marshal the western forces for a concerted effort against Russia and her satellites.
- By and large, the [redacted] delegates are said to have favored a positive reaction towards Soviet overtures, but other delegates, specifically the Swedes, characterized such an attitude as "letting the wish be the father of the thought." The French were specifically adamant in their opinion that a true change of Russian policy was in the offing and documented their theory with the plan allegedly brought back by Maurice Thorez from Russia.
- The Asiatic representatives are said to have advised the Europeans to follow a strict policy of neutrality between East and West and they claimed that Pandit Nehru had overwhelming support for his theory of neutrality among the Asian peoples. The British and Scandinavian representatives were the strongest supporters for a policy of neutrality. Erich Cilenhauer, Germany's representative, endorsed a system of collective security with complete German equality. He, in turn, found strong opposition from the French for his thesis. Guy Mollet told him quite openly that the French Socialist Party could not possibly expose itself by endorsing German equality a few months before the French communal elections.

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4. Ollenhauer warned against rejecting the Russian offers out of hand but cautioned his colleagues equally against undue optimism. He assured that the Western powers would not care to reject a Soviet invitation to resume four-power conversations on the Austrian or the German problems. He reiterated, however, that the starting point for any discussions on Germany must be free elections throughout the four zones and the creation of an independent government for the purpose of negotiating a peace treaty. That government, Ollenhauer said, could not and should not be bound by any treaties entered upon by either the Federal Republic or the East German Republic. He emphasized that no arrangements should be made with the Soviet Government which would call for the evacuation of the Western armed forces from the Federal Republic. He added that, in his opinion, the electorate of a unified Germany could be counted upon to ally itself with the West by an overwhelming majority. Therefore any move by the Soviet Union toward reunification would be an incalculable gain even if the procedure to that end **required** sacrifices on the part of the West.

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